

**Statement of Interest**  
**Chair, Academic Senate: Second Year**  
Alison McKee

I seek the support of the Academic Senate for a final one-year term as Academic Senate chair. While I am on medical leave this semester (Spring 2022), my anticipated return-to-work date is May 31, 2022, in time to continue with the chair's duties for the customary summer appointment. Members of the Senate leadership team and I have worked hard during January to ensure continuity and continued communication going into Spring 2022 as well at its conclusion in order to ease transitions from one period to the next, and we will continue to do so.

I have served on the Senate since 2017, first as a member of the Professional Standards committee under the leadership of Senator Kenneth Peter (2017-2019), then as Vice Chair of the Senate (2019-2021), and now as Academic Senate Chair for the past eight months (May 10, 2021 to the present). My work in these various capacities has been among the most rewarding and meaningful experiences I have had in my nineteen years at SJSU. In collaborating with others, I have found that such work makes a tangible impact in the lives of faculty and staff and plays a significant role in student success. These things, in turn, strengthen SJSU, particularly during times of pandemic, transitions, and other university challenges. My commitment to core values of **shared governance** and **inclusivity** has only increased since my time as chair of the Senate, and I advocate for both any chance I can.

As chair I have worked to articulate and represent those values in a wide range of university contexts. This year I have served on thirteen committees or bodies, including, of course, the full Senate itself, Executive Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, University Council of Chairs and Directors, President's Leadership Council, Accreditation Review Committee, Accreditation Review Steering Committee, Tower Board, CSU Council of Chairs, Campus Fee Advisory Committee, Campus Committee of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Accessibility Technology Initiative, and Associated Students Personnel Committee). Each of these entities has not only provided me with a view into the complex nature of the interrelated workings of SJSU but to form my own working relationships with (and within) each that I hope to deepen and further next year.

In my various roles as chair of the Senate, be it with different constituencies or individuals from different divisions of the university who come to me with issues (and there are many that are largely invisible to the Senate as a whole), I first ask people to tell me what their expectations are for me as chair of the Senate and how they believe I can help them. I listen, I ask questions, and ensure that I hear different voices from assorted stakeholders before I form conclusions or take any action. My leadership style is consultative, and I have repeatedly told members of the administration, faculty, staff, and students that I am not "Queen of the Senate" but rather a representative of it, a leader who serves at its will, but who absolutely weighs in and carefully represents the views of others as fairly and robustly as possible.